(d) The broad areas in which the country can derive benefits from operational applications satellites are, satellite-based:

—-telecommunications, TV and Radio networking and direct TV Broadcasting-.

—remote sensing for resources survey and management.

—environmental monitoring and meteorological services.

Air pollution in Major Cities in the Conntry

290. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated contribution of motor vehicles to air pollution in major cities ofthe country;

(b) what means have been adopted to check pollution from diesel exhaust particularly those of Government vehicles;

(c) whether any research has been conducted on the use of appropriate additives to diesel or that of external devices such as catalytic convertors; and

(d) if so, with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) It is estimated to range from 40 per cent to 60 per cent.

(b) The following measures have been adopted:

—Emission standards have been pre-scribed for phased implementation;

—Vehicle manufacturers have been asked to make necessary changes in the design of vehicles to reduce emissions;

—-Facilities for smoke monitoring have been set up by the Transport authorities in some major cities; and

—A system for compulsory fitness certificate for old vehicles has been introduced.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir; preliminary studies have been conducted the results of which indicate the possibility of considerable reduction in emissions.

Pollution due to dust and Microflora

291. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding pollution due to dust and microflora during harvesting ;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) if the reply to part (a) above above be in the negative whether such a proposal is under consideration; and

(d) whether any major scientific plan has been devised to check pollution by the burning of agricultural residues like wheat straw, rice husk and bagasse etc. and instead recycle them economically ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The results indicate high levels of dust during tillage of soil and inci-ence ofmocroflora due to high mois-ture content in rice and groundunt.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.